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Saturday, October 13, 2012

THE MORNING NEWS

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Crossing Wilhelminastraat-Oude Schoolstraat closed for the weekend

ORANJESTAD – The Department of Public Works announces to all motorists that this weekend the crossing Wilhelminastraat-Oude Schoolstraat will be closed. DOW is going to be installing a drainage pipe under the road to facilitate the rain-water flow coming from the center of Oranjestad to the Lagoon.

Traffic will be closed to all motorists as of today,

October 13 from 6:00 a.m. until Monday, October 15, at 6:00 a.m. The traffic will be diverted from the crossing Wilhelminastraat-Irenestraat and from the crossing Steenweg-Kruisweg.

There will be traffic signs and barricades to notify all motorist of the traffic change.

The Department of Public works apologizes for any inconvenience this may cause.

Aruba's Sarah-Quita Offringa takes the title for 5th consecutive year

Windsurfing world champions crowned in Sylt, Germany



Photo courtesy of John Carter and PWA

The Professional Windsurfing Association ended their 2012 circuit on Sunday, October 7, with the Reno World Cup in Sylt, Germany. The final event in the world tour held some surprises, but the crowning of Aruba's own Sarah-Quita Offringa as the PWA Women's World Champion Freestyle was not one of them. Second place went to Laura Treboux of Switzerland and third to Arriane Aukes of Holland.

This last event saw famed Bjorn Dunderbeck arriving with the lead for the championship title in Men's Slalom, only to lose it at the 11th hour to Antoine Albeau of France. Sarah Quita had already locked in her world championship trophy during the Sotavento Fuerteventura World Cup in Spain at the end of July.

At the finish of 2011, Sarah Quita held three World Championship titles, Open Women's World Champion Freestyle, Open Women's World Champion in Slalom and Women's Youth Champion, as she was still under 21. This year, she had cut back on participation in events to concentrate on her studies at the University of Utrecht division of Science and Innovation Management. She is presenting focusing on Sustainable Development and Organi-

zational Networks.

She traveled to Sylt only to accept her PWA World Champion trophy, and enhance the event with her presence. At the beginning of September she participated in the World Cup in Alacati, Turkey, in the Slalom events, just to prove she could have maintained her crown in the discipline as long as competitions do not intrude on her studies. A supreme athlete, she left the field way behind in the final elimination, to take the gold medal and first place trophy.

Sarah-Quita is the PWA Women's World Freestyle Champion for the fifth consecutive year, having won her first world champion title in

2008 at the age of 17. She set a new record for the youngest woman to ever win a world title. She also holds the record for the youngest PWA windsurfer to win a gold medal, having turned pro when she was 12 years old. In five year's she has not lost a single freestyle heat when competing. Her status as a superstar of the PWA circuit has won her a several places on the header of their website.

The 2013 world championship circuit will begin March 1 in Mui Ne Bay in Binh Thuan Province with the PWA Vietnam Grand Slam. Sarah-Quita will compete if it does not interfere with her exams.

by Rosalie Klein



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On Sustainability Day the focus was on reading in our schools



On Wednesday, for the fourth consecutive year in Holland they celebrated what is known as Sustainability Day (Dag van de Duurzaamheid). The day of sustainability is organized by an organization called "Urgenda" and is supported by many well known Dutch citizens, directors of companies and prominent organizations as well as embassies.

This year the Aruba Minister of Social and Cultural Affairs was invited by Dutch Princes Laurentien of Oranje to join in the awareness day. Both Princes Laurentien and Michelle Hooyboer-Winklaar are avid supporters of reading to children and constantly are promoting reading to children with great enthusiasm.



Princes Laurentien, in Rotterdam, and Michelle Hooyboer-Winklaar here in Aruba visited various primary schools and read a chapter from a book dealing with sustainability to

children. In support of the project here in Aruba, Desiree Correa and Maya Werleman, as well as representatives of the National Library, Olivia Figaroa and Astrid Gietel also read to children in various schools around the island. While in Holland, former Prime Minister, Jan Peter Balkenende and actor Joris Putman also joined in the reading action.

Later, the Dutch Princes and Aruba's Minister Michelle Hooyboer-Winklaar will exchange videos, pictures and ar-

ticles of the way they commemorated the Day of Sustainability in Aruba and in Holland.

The Aruba Minister used Princes Laurentien's book, Mr. Finney, from which to read to our children. She remarked that the Princes' book is a perfect fit for children in Aruba. The book, originally written in Dutch, has been translated into Papiamentu and besides being a fascinating read also transmits a powerful message to children about protecting and caring for our environment and nature.

Reading is a valuable vehicle for promoting awareness on different topics. Children will take the messages learned to their homes and share them with parents and siblings.

New rates for Arubus for cash customers in effect Monday, October 15



Arubus clients waiting to claim their smartcard



Arubus announced yesterday that the new "Smartcard" system for all mass transit will be in effect this coming Monday, October 15. Commuters regularly using Arubus should have acquired their free Smartcard at the Arubus headquarters in Sabana Blanco. Card users will only be charged the current fare, 2.25 Aruban florins per ride, as opposed to the new 4.00 Aruban florins fare for cash customers.

Arubus has also completely done away with all ticket books, for students, elderly and commuters. Initial registration and issuance of a card comes with 20 fares already installed. Cards can be recharged at

Johnson Supermarket in San Nicolas, S. Chow Supermarket in Savaneta, Rey Hing Supermarket Pos Chiquito, Botica Santa Cruz, Quick Store Trabana, 24 Store in Paradera and Oranjestad, Circle K Oranjestad, Botica Santa Ana Noord and the mini-market in the Alhambra Shopping Bar. Cards can also be recharged at Arubus Headquarters in Sabana Blanco and main bus terminals in San Nicolas and Oranjestad. Bus drivers can check the remaining balance on the card when they swipe it. Smartcards should be treated with care. They are not transferable and contain a photo ID of the user. Cards are valid for two years, after which they must be renewed. For 60 Plussers and students the expiration date is after one year. Smartcard holders are requested to notify Arubus immediately of loss or damage to the card by calling 588-2300. This number is valid to report any problems with recharging the card at any station. Replacement of a lost or damaged Smartcard will cost 25 Aruban florins.

by Rosalie Klein

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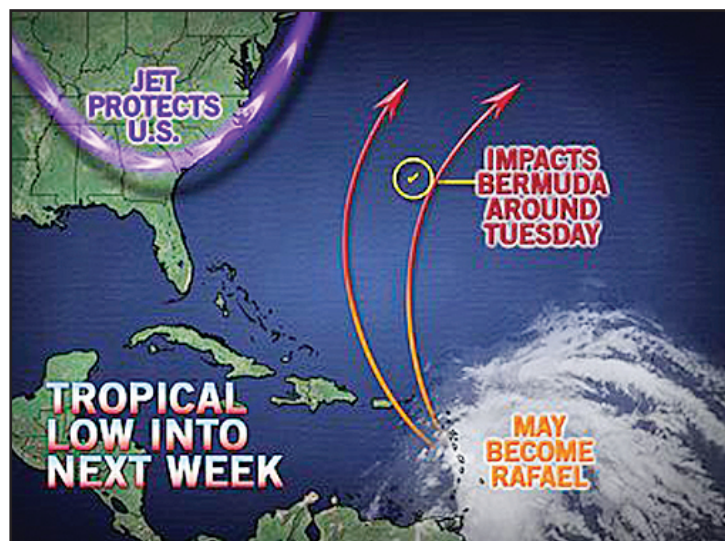
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Disturbance on verge of becoming a tropical storm



A disturbance near the Lesser Antilles is on the verge of becoming the season's next tropical storm. Models continue to indicate it will curve north and remain clear of the U.S. coastline.

The National Hurricane Center yesterday has started issuing advisories on the system. It will be named Rafael.

Late yesterday afternoon, the system was in the eastern Caribbean about 100 miles west of Dominica, moving northwest at 10 to 15 mph.

It will drift toward the north-northwest through the weekend and will bring drenching showers, locally gusty thunderstorms and rough seas over the Leewards and Virgin Islands, to perhaps as far west as Puerto Rico.

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Aruba present at Florida Caribbean Cruise Association Conference



The 19th celebration of the annual Florida Caribbean Cruise Association (FCCA) Conference took place this year in Curacao. Executives of different cruise lines, representatives of different destinations in the Caribbean and all members of FCCA came together to celebrate one of the most important events in the cruise industry. Aruba was represented by the Aruba Tourism Authority, Aruba Ports Authority, as

well as by the Minister of Tourism.

This conference was very important to Aruba. The result of the BREA (Business Research and Economic Advisors) study was presented. The study was conducted between May 2011 and April 2012. The results indicate that 90% of all cruise passengers disembark on Aruba, as well as 35% of the cruise ships crew members. This represents about 620,000 per-

sons who disembark and enjoy the island during their stop in Aruba. Aruba received more than 60 million US dollars during the 2011/2012 cruise year.

Aruba also surpassed the rest of the other destinations in the Southern Caribbean area on the average expenditure of cruise visitors as well as in the total expenditure in cruise tourism with an increase of 18% in overall expenditures.

Continued on page 5

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Capoeira martial art brought into focus on Aruba



Last Tuesday evening at the Cas di Cultura many witnessed a presentation of a unique form of art, the peculiar martial art of Capoeira. This is a Brazilian form of art combined with certain aspects of martial arts, music and sports, as a corporal expression.

Capoeira is one of the martial arts that have grown tremendously in the last few years. Minister Visser claims that it is one of the extreme games which have its origin many years ago. He consid-

ered this sport in his study on obesity in children and explored how this game could be used to get children active and eating better.

One of the uniqueness of this sport is that it uses personal defense combined with art and music. This makes it so attractive to young people.

Capoeira is making its inroads on Aruba. All children can participate and will learn all the combinations, such as music, rhythm, personal defense, discipline and respect.

The Seventeenth Stair

Continued

One day he decided to visit one of the highest points on Aruba called Mt. Hooiberg. This was a volcanically-formed hill located about the middle of the island and the meaning of "hooiberg" in Dutch was "haystack". It was a landmark in Aruba, very visible from the windows of incoming planes, a lonely hill upon an otherwise flat, arid landscape dotted with aloe and cacti. At Mt. Hooiberg, Daniel immediately saw a very long, graduated stairway built into the side of the hill, consisting of 550 (so the sign said) worn stone steps, slightly indented in the middle from the use by many feet and corrosion from the unceasing southeasterly trade winds. The stairway went to the top of the hill for viewing purposes and was remarkable in its feeling of strength; its gentle slope was designed to give the climber comfort as they ascended the stairs. Daniel visited Mt. Hooiberg many times, at all different times of day and night, usually bicycling or walking. He learned when no one would be there, and one evening, he gathered most of his funds into his money belt, along with a trowel and a small crowbar. At the Mt. Hooiberg stairway, he carefully counted to the seventeenth stair step and began to dig and pry an opening behind and under-

**Hooiberg**

neath the old concrete, slightly crumbly at the edges. He picked the number 17 because his birthday was November 17th, 1959. He noted as he dug, an abundance of scorpions around him, doing their mating dances, pincers upraised as he disturbed the hard, red clay soil. Daniel buried the wrapped funds, nearly \$500,000.00 into the deep hole and repacked the earth until he was satisfied all was perfectly concealed. There was no movement, no other person, only the balmy tropical night under a sickle moon and Daniel with the scorpions at the seventeenth stair.

It became time to leave. Daniel booked his flight to

Miami after contacting Maggie when he would arrive and make his way to Canada. After arrival to Miami International, the jet seemed to be a long time on the tarmac. Daniel fretted, sweating slightly as the plane grew warmer inside. When he saw two tall burly men coming down the aisle toward him, he knew the game was up.

"Your 'friend' Gary got careless on his way to Mexico, and ratted you out boy, in return for a bargain from John Law", one of the U.S. Marshalls told him. "Too bad. Now you got lots of 'splaining to do about all that cash you stole".

Continued in Monday's paper



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Aruba present at FCCA Conference

Continued from page 3

Present at this conference were, director of Aruba Ports Authority, Alfonso Boekhoudt; Ronella Tjin-Asjoe-Croes, CEO of ATA; Myrna Jansen, Senior Advisor to the Minister of Tourism; and Gloria Vega, Cruise & Niche Manager of ATA.

Aruba proudly participated this time for the first time with a very attractive and colorful booth. The booth was replete with the quiet ambiance of Aruba and our Caribbean music and carnival costumes.

During the conference, Aruba took advantage of the opportunity to do some strategic marketing. During the five days, several specific executives received a lovely gift in their hotel rooms, among others, breakfast in bed, lovely (re-cycled) glass jug made in Aruba, locally made cigars, Aruba Aloe products and finally, they also received an invitation to spend a weekend on Aruba to personally enjoy the destination and all that Aruba has to offer.

This conference afforded Aruba the opportunity to attend various important workshops as well as to explore opportunities for increasing the amount of cruises visiting our port especially during the off seasons. Events like these also afford the opportunity for networking and to enhance existing relationships with the various cruise lines and their partners.

ATA was very pleased with the conference and once again declares their commitment to the cruise industry, which is a market that reflects a major potential and opportunity for growth for Aruba.

Palapa at Arashi beach available again



During the last two months one of the largest palapas at Arashi beach has been taken by a sea turtle nest! A Hawksbill Sea Turtle decided to make her nest just beneath one of the palapas, taking away a spot with shade for tourists and locals!

The area was fenced off with barriers by Turtugaruba, the local Sea Turtle Foundation, to give the eggs a chance to develop without disturbance.

And it has been successful: after 59 days of incubation the nest has hatched and 153 small Hawksbill Turtles found their way to the sea!

Turtugaruba thanks all beach visitors for respecting the nest.

Information about Turtugaruba: www.facebook.com/Turtugaruba



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New York police bust illegal gun networks

NEW YORK (AFP) - New York police announced yesterday they have broken up two gun trafficking networks in what officials said was the biggest such bust in recent city history.

Indictments were filed against 16 members of the two networks after they sold more than 110 illegal weapons, including five assault rifles and machine guns, to undercover agents, police and prosecutors said.

"These are the most significant gun trafficking investigations in Manhattan in recent history, both in terms of the number of illegal gun traffickers taken into custody, and the sheer volume of ille-

gal guns removed from the streets," Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus Vance said.

Although murders are at an all-time low in New York, shootings remain common: 127 incidents in Manhattan alone this year claimed 152 victims, 19 of whom died.

"Gun traffickers are bringing violence to our neighborhoods by selling illegal firearms -- they are at the root of the problem of gun violence in this city," Vance said.

Police Commissioner Ray Kelly praised his officers for the arrests, singling out "someone we can only refer to as 'Detective X,' for the dangerous undercover work that made this case possible."

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Crisis-torn EU wins 2012 Nobel Peace Prize

OSLO (AFP) - The Nobel Peace Prize was awarded yesterday to the European Union, an institution wracked by the euro crisis but credited with bringing more than half a century of peace to a continent ripped apart by two world wars.

"The union and its forerunners have for over six decades contributed to the advancement of peace and reconciliation, democracy and human rights in Europe," Nobel Committee president Thorbjørn Jagland said in Oslo.

Reactions to the prize, which caught many by surprise at a time when the union of 27 states is beleaguered by a severe financial crisis, were divided, with equal measures of praise and criticism.

For the men of the hour, European Union President Herman Van Rompuy and European Commission president Jose Manuel Barroso, the award was "a tremendous honour."

"This prize is the strongest possible recognition of the deep political motives behind our Union: the unique effort by ever more European states to overcome war and divisions



and to jointly shape a continent of peace and prosperity," they said in a statement.

The prize, they said, belonged to "all the 500 million citizens living in our union."

However, the Twittersphere was aflame with strong online reactions to the Nobel Committee's pick at a time when European solidarity is facing its most daunting challenge in decades amid deep rifts between a south drowning in debt and a wealthier north only reluctantly coming to the rescue.

"Anti-austerity protests in Portugal, Spain, Greece, Italy & France, Nationalism, Fascism, unemployment and poverty. Yeah EU deserves it!" @AnonOpGreece said on Twitter.

Poland's Lech Walesa, who won the 1983 Nobel Peace Prize for leading the country's anti-communist movement,

said he was "unpleasantly surprised" by the choice, and British eurosceptics also reacted with dismay.

Jagland acknowledged that "the EU is currently undergoing grave economic difficulties and considerable social unrest," but

stressed that the Nobel jury had wanted "to focus on what it sees as the EU's most important result: the successful struggle for peace and reconciliation and for democracy and human rights."

The creation of the union is credited with helping to bring peace and stability to the war-torn continent by bringing together former arch-enemies France and Germany and herding them down the same path.

Despite recurring difficulties, the EU has become the biggest common market in the world, allowing for the free circulation of goods, people, services and capital.

Over the years, the pioneering project has swelled to encompass 27 countries which not long ago sat on both sides of the Cold War "Iron Curtain".

Feisty Biden clashes with earnest Ryan in VP debate

DANVILLE (AFP) - A feisty Vice President Joe Biden came out swinging Thursday against Republican rival Paul Ryan in a fierce debate, determined to regain momentum after Barack Obama's listless display last week.

Democrat Biden and Ryan, nearly 30 years his junior, clashed sharply on Iran, Libya, Afghanistan and top domestic issues including health care, abortion and taxes on a combative evening in Kentucky.

Biden also savaged surging Republican presidential nominee Mitt Romney over his remark to rich donors that 47 percent of Americans were "victims" reliant on government, an attack Obama avoided in his loss to Romney in their first debate, to the fury of Democrats.

In a crackling showdown, Biden, 69, came under intense pressure from Ryan on the Obama administration's handling of the crisis sparked by

the killing of the US ambassador to Libya, Chris Stevens, in Benghazi on September 11.

"We will find and bring to justice the men who did this. Whatever mistakes were made, will not be made again," a steely Biden vowed, and then swiftly went on offense, touting Obama's record on national security.

Passionate and adamant, Biden was on a mission to reverse Romney's polling surge and steady worried Democrats. He drew on his years as a foreign policy expert to repel his well-briefed opponent's attacks.

But his constant quirky smirking and guffaws on a split screen when the earnest Ryan, 42, gave his answers risked distracting millions of television viewers watching at home, and could dominate the post-debate fallout.

Polls released immediately after the debate were mixed.

In a CBS News poll of un-

decided voters, 50 percent felt Biden won, 31 percent felt Ryan did, and 19 percent said the debate was a tie. A CNN survey found viewers evenly divided on who won the showdown, with 48 percent giving the debate to Ryan and 44 percent to Biden, well within the margin of error.

New polling Thursday bolstered the impression that Romney's surge had narrowed the race to at least a tie less than a month before the election.

Rasmussen Reports had Obama up a single point in its national poll of likely voters, while Gallup had a similar margin but with Romney on top.

A flurry of state polls revealed the race was essentially a toss-up.

An NBC/Wall Street Journal survey had Obama up six points in what may be the kingmaker state, Ohio, but two other surveys in the state said the race was within a single point.



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Syria army takes pounding as Turkey tensions rise

DAMASCUS (AFP) - The army took a pounding at the hands of rebels in northern Syria, a watchdog said yesterday, as tensions between Damascus and Ankara escalated over cargo seized from a Syrian passenger plane.

A rebel offensive killed more than 130 soldiers in two days, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said.

Forty-one soldiers were among at least 96 people killed nationwide yesterday, including 28 civilians, the watchdog said. On Thursday alone the army suffered 92 losses -- its highest daily total in the 19-month conflict.

With an average of 20 deaths per day, the army has lost about 10,000 soldiers, with at least an equal number wounded, a military hospital official told AFP, updating a toll of 8,000 he gave in August.

As fighting raged on the ground, a war of words between Syria and Turkey grew angrier after Ankara said military supplies were aboard an airliner it intercepted en route from Moscow to Damascus.

And Turkey scrambled a fighter jet yesterday after a Syrian helicopter attacked the rebel-held town of Azmarin near the border, an official in Ankara told AFP.

The Syrian foreign ministry accused Turkish Prime Minister Recep Erdogan of lying when he said the jet intercepted on Wednesday was carrying "equipment and ammunition shipped to the Syrian defence ministry" from Russia.

Sergei Lavrov, Moscow's foreign minister, said the cargo was legal, in Russia's first remarks about the incident.

"This cargo is electrical technical equipment for radar stations, this is dual-purpose equipment but is not forbidden by any international conventions," Lavrov said.

Clinton defends UN envoy Rice over Benghazi

WASHINGTON (AFP) - US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton yesterday stepped into the fray of a row whipped up by Republicans against US ambassador to the UN Susan Rice over her comments on the Benghazi attack.

"To this day, to this day," Clinton stressed, "we do not have a complete picture, we do not have all the answers" to what happened on September

11 when the US consulate in Benghazi was attacked by heavily-armed men.

"No one in this administration has ever claimed otherwise. Everyone of us has made clear that we are providing the best information we have at that time," Clinton added.

"That information continues to be updated, it also continues to be put into context and more deeply understood,"

she said, amid investigations into how ambassador Chris Stevens and three other Americans were killed in the attack.

Initially officials said it was sparked by an angry protest over an anti-Islam film, before later in September finally acknowledging it was a terrorist attack.

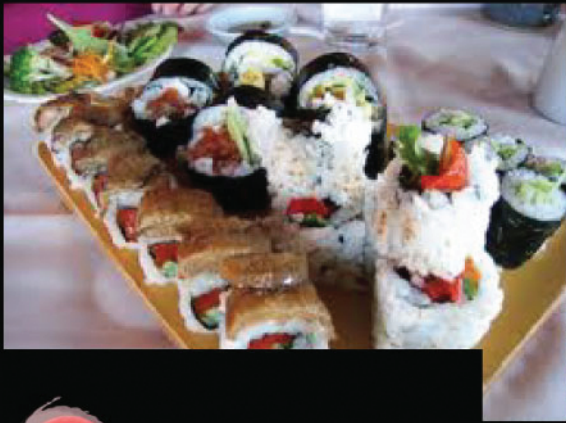
Republican anger, however, has zeroed in on Rice, who on the Sunday after the attack

went on the morning television talk shows and said that according to the information available at the time it was a "spontaneous" protest.

"Ambassador Rice had the same information from the intelligence community as every other senior official did," Clinton said. "We can only tell you what we know based on our most current understanding of the attack, and what led up to

it. Obviously we will know more as time goes by. And we will know even more than we did hours and days after the attack."

Clinton vowed the administration was seeking "to understand what happened, and we are doing all we can to prevent it from ever happening again. And as a government we are doing what it takes to track down those responsible."



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Health & Living

Menopause drugs: Study stokes new debate over cancer risk



PARIS (AFP) - Women who start hormone replacement therapy (HRT) soon after menopause do not show higher cancer incidence within 16 years, according to a Danish study published that fuels scientific discord over the treatment's safety.

Indeed, women who took HRT in the investigation had a significantly lower risk of dying or developing heart problems, the researchers wrote in a paper published on the medical website bmj.com.

The new study was hailed by a menopause awareness group but a researcher who led a wider probe into HRT said it

was worryingly underpowered.

HRT has been shrouded in controversy since a Women's Health Initiative (WHI) study reported a higher risk of breast cancer for women who take it, a finding echoed by the Million Women Study (MWS) a year later.

The MWS stirred up a storm when it claimed HRT boosted cancer risk by between 30 and 100 percent, a finding criticised by other scientists who claimed the study method was flawed.

HRT uses the female hormones oestrogen or progesterone, sometimes combined, to

ease menopausal symptoms such as hot flushes, loss of sex drive and vaginal dryness.

The new study looked at 1,006 recently post-menopausal women, of whom 502 were given HRT and 504 no treatment.

Apart from the HRT group being 5.7 months older, there were no other significant differences between the groups in things like weight, health or smoking habits.

Analysis of the data after 16 years showed that 27 of the women on treatment had died, three had suffered heart failure and five heart attacks.

In the untreated group, 40 had died, eight had been diagnosed with heart failure and 11 suffered heart attacks.

Rates of stroke and cancer did not significantly differ between the groups, wrote the team whose members hail from five Danish hospitals.

They did point out, though, that a longer follow-up may be necessary for more definite conclusions on cancer risk.

Northern Ireland's first abortion clinic to open

BELFAST (AFP) - The first abortion clinic in Northern Ireland will open next week amid fears it will attract protests along the lines of violent opposition to similar facilities in some US states.

The privately-run clinic in Belfast will be run by the Marie Stopes group, which said it would offer "a wide range of family planning and sexual health services under one roof".

It is extremely difficult to get an abortion in Northern Ireland, and pro-life groups and smaller political parties have already voiced opposition to the Marie Stopes clinic.

Jim Allister of the Traditional Unionist Voice party told BBC radio: "Where is the need for this clinic? There could not possibly be one."

Just 35 pregnancies were terminated in Northern Ireland in the past year and it is estimated that about one thousand women from the province travel to England every year for abortions.

The clinic will not have a police guard because it is pri-

vately-run.

Marie Stopes said a security guard has been posted at the building, which the clinic shares with several other tenants.

A spokeswoman for the group said that before women enter the building to attend the clinic, they "will have to give certain details, booking numbers, so that we know it's them and not someone else".

Abortion laws which allow terminations up to 24 weeks in England, Wales and Scotland, the other three nations of the United Kingdom, do not cover Northern Ireland.

However, it is not illegal -- it is legal to terminate a pregnancy if the mother's life is in danger or there is a risk to her mental or physical wellbeing.

Marie Stopes said it will operate within the laws and guidelines.

There is little political will in Northern Ireland to legalise abortion. An attempt by the British government to introduce it in 2008 was met with strong opposition.

US tainted drug outbreak rises to 185 cases

CHICAGO (AFP) - The number of people believed to have been sickened by a contaminated drug rose to 185 Friday, but US health officials said the death toll from the rare meningitis outbreak held steady at 14.

Texas has now reported its first case, the 12th state affected by the outbreak tied to a steroid typically injected into the spine to treat back pain.

Health officials have notified most of the 14,000 people in 23 states who may have received tainted doses of the steroid. But it could be weeks or even months before authorities have a final tally of the infections, because the deadly

fungal infection has such a long incubation period.

The rare fungal infection -- which inflames the protective membranes covering the brain and spinal cord -- often goes undetected until it is too late,

because its flu-like symptoms can be mild at first.

Treatment requires a lengthy hospital stay and intravenous anti-fungal medications. But meningitis is not contagious in this form.



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Sci-Tech

Rats recruited to hunt for TB in Mozambique



MAPUTO (AFP) - A swarm of trained rats is on its way to Mozambique to help the country's over-stretched health system detect tuberculosis in patients, officials said Friday.

The authorities have enlisted the much-maligned rodents to help sniff out the disease, after Mozambique's first lady learned of their success in neighbouring Tanzania.

The organisation is in the

process of building a laboratory in the Mozambican capital, Maputo, where the rats will be used to sniff their way through sputum samples from patients suspected of having the disease.

These are no ordinary household rats, but "giant pouched rats" native to sub-Saharan Africa, prized for their extraordinary sense of smell.

For the past six years, Apopo has been using what they call their "hero rats" to sniff out land mines in Mozambique left over from its civil and independence wars with great success. "What takes a de-miner two days to clear, rats do in 30 minutes,"

Tewelde said.

Now the rodents will turn their attention to the country's new threat - tuberculosis, often associated with HIV infection in a sub-continent plagued by the AIDS epidemic.

The disease affects six people out of every 1,000 people according to 2008 UN figures. Half of all TB cases go undetected according to the country's health ministry statistics.

Rats can help to bring these numbers down because of their speed and accuracy, Apopo said.

They can accomplish in under an hour, what a laboratory technician can accomplish in a week, said Tewelde.

By the end of the year, Apopo hopes to be using around 50 giant rats for both mine-detection and TB detection -- though not using the same individual animals.



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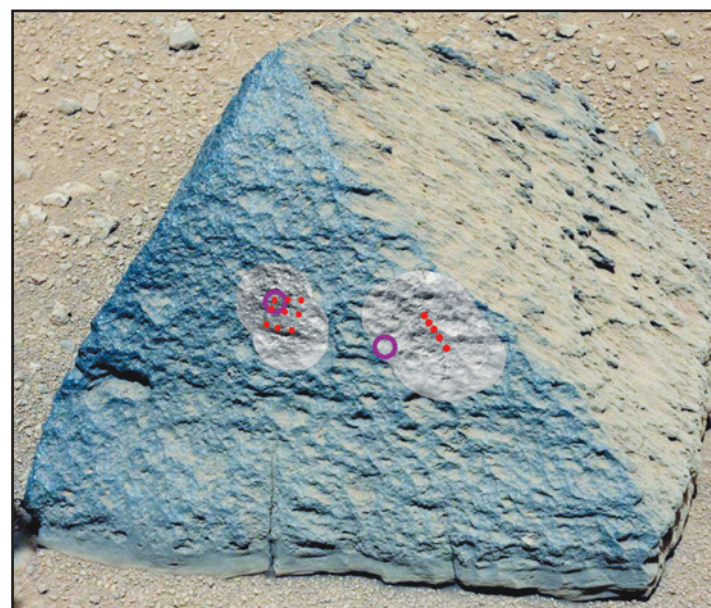
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Mars rover makes surprising rock find



WASHINGTON (AFP) - A rock analyzed by NASA's Mars rover Curiosity has a surprising and more varied composition that resembles rare rocks from the bowels of our planet, the US space agency said Thursday.

"This rock is a close match in chemical composition to an unusual but well-known type of igneous rock found in many volcanic provinces on Earth," Curiosity co-investigator Edward Stolper of the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena said in a statement.

"With only one Martian rock of this type, it is difficult

to know whether the same processes were involved, but it is a reasonable place to start thinking about its origin."

On Earth, rocks with similar compositions usually come from "processes in the planet's mantle beneath the crust, from the crystallization of relatively water-rich magma at elevated pressure," according to the NASA statement.

NASA has also determined that a bright object observed on the ground near the robot several days ago was just a bit of plastic that does not jeopardize the rover's operations.



OCT - NOV 2012

OCTOBER

- 6th - Santo Sacrificio di Misa - St Anna 7:00 PM
- 7th - Planta e Sinta Roos - Fantastic Gardens - 10 AM
- 9th - Lecura: Cancer di Pecho Avansa - Fantastic Gardens 7:30 PM
- 11th - Coffee Morgen & Craft - Mary Joan Center 9 AM
- 14th - Support Group with Anneliz Jonkhout. - Centro 5:30 PM
- 16th - Lectura: How healthy is your environment - Fantastic Gardens 8 PM
- 19th - Coffee Morgen & Craft - Mary Joan Center 9 AM
- 20th - Pink Golf Tounament - Divi Links 8 AM
- 20th - Warriors in Pink walk/bike tour - R.E. Yrausquin & Sons - 5 PM
- 21st - Les di planta mata y rond leiding - Fantastic Gardens 10 AM
- 26th - Coffee Morgen & Craft - Mary Joan Center 9 AM
- 28th - ATC EXPO - Renaissance Convention Center 10 AM - 6:00 pm
- 28th - Cooking Class: Healthy Food - YMCA S.N. 6 PM

NOVEMBER

- 4th - Lecture & Concert at Mary Joan Center 6 PM
- 9th - 1st Athletic PINK Sprint - Stadion Dakota - 5:30 PM
- 11th - Yoplait Pink walk/bike tour/zumbathon

Tapidi tur cliente pa avisa cua actividad lo participa na dje pa asina
por prepara debidamente (588-9999)

COMICS

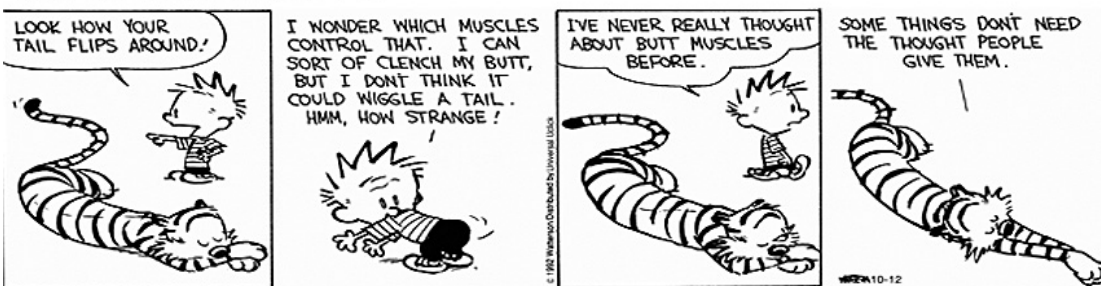
PICKLES



MOMMA



CALVIN and HOBBS



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ACROSS

1. Injure
5. Young pests
10. Eden to Nod direction
14. Coastal bird
15. Sargent's stand
16. Patsy Cline, for one
17. "Adieu!"
18. Firewood measure
19. Oversupply
20. Outlaw duo
23. Little League coaches, often
24. Tool's mate
25. Assert
28. Electrode
30. Owns
33. Tolerate
34. Setting for most Stephen King novels

35. Harem room
36. Humperdinck opera
40. Mine extract
41. Huey and Russell
42. Defrost
43. Hosp.
44. "Central Park in the Dark" composer
45. Painter John Singleton
47. Chomped
48. Excellent
49. "Way Out West" stars
56. Cathedral section
57. Destroy slowly
58. Kind of exam
60. Battle the bulge
61. Hoarder

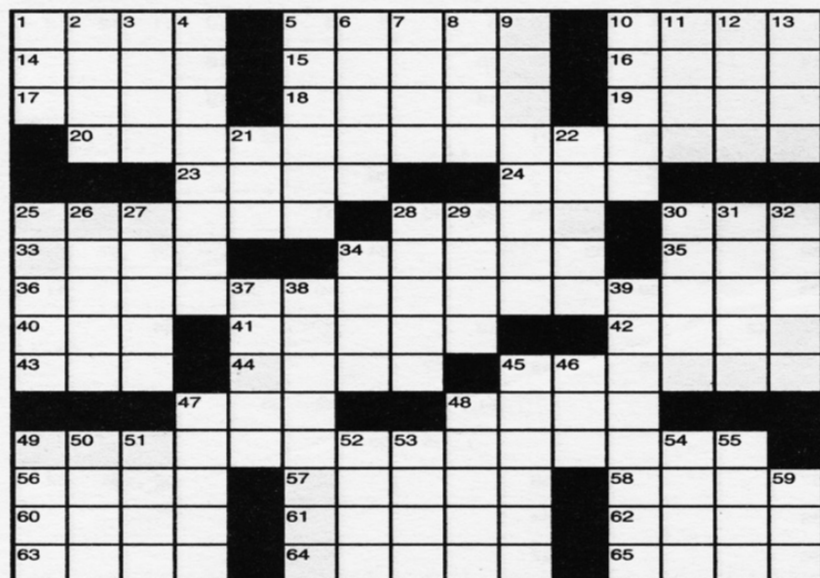
62. Assumed part
63. Alleviate
64. "Shotgun ____"
65. Exceeded the posted limit

DOWN

1. Encountered
2. Syrian or Saudi
3. "Coming ____ Los Angeles" (Arlo Guthrie)
4. Wanders
5. Next to
6. Works for "Consumer Reports"
7. On the Aegean
8. Seabird
9. Pung play
10. Philly athlete
11. Political

PARTNERS

12. Part of a wall frame
13. Canvas bag
21. Pick at
22. Apple drink
25. Abominate
26. Benefit from lessons
27. Roads
28. Mob units
29. Eliminates
30. John Irving's "The ____ New Hampshire"
31. An Astaire
32. Piquant
34. Palomino's crowning glory
37. Finest part
38. Dr. ____ ("Wild, Wild West" villain)
39. Charlemagne et al.
45. Hang together
46. Three ____ match
47. Ridge
48. Put two and two together
49. Bail
50. Capital of Western Samoa
51. Employs
52. Asian sea
53. Long-running PBS science program
54. Let fall
55. Oliver Stone's alma mater
59. Wielded a baton



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POLICE HDQS
Telephone 100

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SOLUTION

1	9	4	6	5	2	8	7	3
8	7	5	1	3	9	6	2	4
3	2	6	9	7	8	1	5	4
6	8	9	5	1	7	3	2	4
5	1	3	2	4	9	6	8	7
7	4	2	8	6	5	1	3	9
2	6	8	5	9	7	3	1	4
4	5	1	7	8	6	2	9	3
9	3	7	4	1	8	5	6	2

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9



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Finance

US fiscal deficit sharply lower for 2012

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The US budget deficit fell sharply in just-ended fiscal 2012 to \$1.1 trillion, but remained at an uncomfortably high ratio to the size of the economy, the Treasury reported yesterday.

The fiscal shortfall topped \$1 trillion for the fourth straight year, but dropped from \$1.3 trillion in 2011, as the Obama administration answered deep pressure to narrow the shortfall.

Government receipts for the year through September 30 were up 6.4 percent to \$2.45 trillion, the largest gains made from higher payroll deduction returns and a better corporate tax take.

Actual spending, \$3.54 trillion, was down just 1.7 percent, with some of the largest savings, \$95 billion, coming from reduced interest payments on the public debt, though much of that is paid back to the government itself.

The deficit came in at 7.0 percent of gross domestic

product, a level economists say is unsafe, but down from 8.7 percent of GDP in fiscal 2011.

The figures came as President Barack Obama, fighting to keep his job in next month's election, fends off criticism from Republicans that he has been too spendthrift, piling up the national debt, and from fellow Democrats that he has been too cautious about spending to power the economy back from the deep 2008-2009 recession.

The Treasury said the Obama administration "remains committed to enacting proposals to help create jobs and promote economic growth while adopting a balanced deficit reduction package that puts the budget on a sustainable path over the long term."

The CIO and treasury operations, together with -private equity, turned a \$221 million profit, after racking up a \$645 million loss a year ago and a \$1.78 billion loss the previous quarter.

AngloAmerican platinum loses \$126 million over strikes

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) - The world's top platinum producer Anglo American yesterday declared a force majeure in its chrome deliveries and announced that it had lost 1.1 billion rands (\$126 million, 97 million euros) in revenues due to a month-long illegal strike.

The wildcat strike by thousands of its workers "will adversely affect the company's delivery obligations regarding the supply of chrome ore and as a result force majeure notices have been issued to its chrome customers," it said in a statement. Its ability to deliver other metals including platinum and palladium "remains unaffected at this stage."

The group has over the past four weeks lost 67,000 ounces in production of platinum, the equivalent of around 1.1 billion rands in revenues.

Around 28,000 of its workers have been on a wildcat strike for four weeks at its sprawling facilities in Rustenburg, which account for around a quarter of world plat-

inum production. A week ago the company sacked 12,000 of the striking miners.

Investors have warned the dismissals could deepen a crisis that has already paralysed an industry that accounts for around 20 percent of the continental powerhouse's GDP.

Record amount of cargo crosses Panama Canal



AFP photo above shows a cargo ship passing through the Miraflores Locks in the Panama Canal in April 2012.

A record amount of cargo crossed the Panama Canal over the past 12 months, largely fueled by economic growth in Latin America, the waterway's top administrator said.

Nearly 334 million tons of

cargo crossed the canal during fiscal year 2011 -- which ended September 30 -- a jump from 322 million tons the previous year, said Panama Canal Administrator Jorge Quijano.

More than one million vessels have crossed the US-built canal since it was inaugurated on August 15, 1914.

Japan gov't. cuts economic view for 3 months in row

TOKYO — Japan's government downgraded its view of the economy for the third straight month in October as worries about Europe's debt crisis and China's slowdown intensified, adding pressure on the central bank to offer further stimulus to support growth.

It was the longest streak of downgrades since five straight months of cuts made just after the collapse of Lehman Brothers in 2008, underscoring Tokyo's growing alarm that the prolonged overseas slowdown may again nudge Japan into recession.

Economics Minister Seiji Maehara said that while it was too early to judge whether Japan may slip into recession, the economy's trend was weak as weak global demand hurt exports.

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

SIP	BEBOP	ODER
MOE	ALAMO	ROGET
ONT	ROBERT	BURNS
GEST	PENNA	BETA
	ARES	HALTER
SCALED	WAIVE	
OREOS	HARTE	TAU
BURNONES	FINGERS	
EDO	LEANS	GRATE
	EVERT	SEEKER
REARED	CIRC	
EARN	LOIRE	OWEN
FREEZER	BURN	IRA
SENSE	CADRE	SAP
DATE	AREAS	ETE

Beige book: Modest US economic growth in Sept

WASHINGTON -- The US economy picked up in September despite weak momentum in consumer spending, a Federal Reserve survey of regional economies published on Wednesday showed.

In its Beige Book report, used for policy decisions, the

Fed said that economic activity "generally expanded modestly" since the last report six weeks earlier, when it characterised growth as only gradual.

The relatively upbeat assessment came as the economy remains uppermost in American voters' minds.



BATANGAS : A security guard speaks on his radio in front of the Nestle signage in front of the newly inaugurated Nestle Philippines Tanauan Factory in Batangas, south of Manila on October 12, 2012. The Nestle Tanauan Factory in Batangas is completed in 22 months and representing an investment totalling five billion pesos. The manufacturing facility, Nestle's fifth in the country, is amongst the most advanced. The advances are intended to enhance operational efficiencies, cost savings, business competitiveness, and provides safe working environment for employees. (AFP PHOTO)



Current as 10/12/2012	Currency Code	Buying rate banknotes	Buying Cheques	Selling Rate
U.S.A.	USD	1.77	1.78	1.80
Dutch Antilles	ANG	98.00	100.00	100.20
Canada	CAD	1.80	1.82	1.84
Britain	GBP	2.80	2.85	2.91
Switzerland	CHF	190.86	191.58	192.38
Netherlands	EUR	228.91	231.00	233.32
Sweden	SEK	25.62	26.34	27.14
Denmark	DKK	30.01	30.73	31.53
Norway	NOK	30.25	30.97	31.77
Japan	JPY	225.09	227.14	229.42

(per 10,000)

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Afghan child brides under UN spotlight



KABUL (AFP) - Greater efforts must be made to protect girls in Afghanistan, where nearly half are married as child brides and almost one in six weds before they turn 15, the United Nations said.

"Early marriage is a fundamental violation of human rights and impacts all aspects of a girl's life," a group of UN organisations said in a statement to mark the International Day of the Girl Child.

"Child marriage is defined as any marriage carried out below the age of 18 years, be-

fore the girl is psychologically ready to shoulder the responsibilities of marriage and physically prepared to bear children," the statement said.

UN special representative for Afghanistan, Jan Kubis, urged Afghanistan to "ensure that all necessary measures are taken to fulfill its international and national legal obligations in protecting" girls from early marriage.

The UN group, including the children's and women's organisations as well as the Afghan mission, said there

was a strong link between the age of a mother and maternal death.

Despite progress in the past 10 years, the UN says Afghanistan's maternal mortality rate is still 327 per 100,000 live births -- one of the worst in the world.

"Girls aged 10-14 are five times more likely to die in pregnancy or childbirth than women aged 20-24," the statement said.

The UN points to a link between access to education and the prevention of early marriage.

Under the rule of Taliban Islamists in Afghanistan from 1996-2001, girls were not allowed to get an education but official figures show that more than three million are now in school.

But in the rural areas, cultural barriers and poor facilities mean that girls still have limited access to education.

British police say up to 40 victims in TV star abuse probe

LONDON (AFP) - British police investigating child sex abuse claims against the late TV star Jimmy Savile said on Friday they were in contact with 40 potential victims. London's Metropolitan Police (MPS), which is handling the national flood of allegations about one of the top stars in British broadcasting from the 1960s to the 1980s, said they were now following 340 leads. A television programme last week contained accounts from women who claimed they were sexually assaulted by Savile when they were children, in some cases on BBC premises. The programme has spurred many more people into coming forward, in a case that has dominated the headlines in Britain. The MPS said they were working with 14 other police forces across the country where people have registered complaints. People who come forward will be given "the advice and support they need", the statement said. Savile, the long-running host of the BBC's "Top of the Pops" main music show, also raised tens of millions of pounds (dollars, euros) for charity, receiving British and papal knighthoods for his efforts. He died last October aged 84.

Spend a fun evening with friends at Barney's



A place where you feel like you are with friends

A few months ago, Palm Beach welcomed a cozy new place that offers good food, great prices and a uniquely

menu of toppings, sauces and cheeses to customize your order to create the ideal burger. One can also opt for a second or third hamburger patty for a very nominal cost.

High end items on the menu, such as the Seafood Pasta, are only \$20.50. They also have a kid's menu with favorites such as a Kid's Burger, chicken fingers and Mac & Cheese; most items are only \$4. One regular described the place as particularly "kid-friendly," with Elina, a mother herself, having devised a number of methods to keep young ones entertained. The menu has a range to please patrons who are in the mood for something simple while other can be indulgent gourmands.



Mojito anyone?

warm, welcoming ambiance that makes patrons feel as if they are visiting with friends rather than just eating out. Even the name, "Barney's", which was inspired by Barney Rubble of the Flintstones, is an expression of the good humor of its owners and your hosts, Ron and Elina.

Ron and Elina have a very congenial division of labor; he enjoys being bartender and playing around with his "cocktail of the day" while she sees to it that everyone is well satisfied with their meal. Chef Jan is in the kitchen doing his magic; patrons praise their spicy Firecracker Shrimp appetizer and mushrooms stuffed with escargot, priced at \$9.50 and \$8.50, or the Smoked Trout Fillet for a real gourmet treat.

They are particularly popular for their "Build Your Own Barney Burger" using specially imported organic beef from Holland, guaranteed to have been raised without steroids or antibiotics, only \$9.50 with fries and coleslaw. Patrons are handed a special hamburger checklist, which features a full

Tuesday through Saturday evenings they have specialty nights at bargain rates. Tuesday is Schnitzel Night, with a choice of chicken or pork schnitzel prepared any of five ways, a platter with salad and side dish is \$17.50. Wednesday is "All you can eat grouper, prepared any of five ways, with veggies and side dish, \$19.50. Thursday they do it again with unlimited ribs done three ways for \$17.50 with salad, slaw and fries, Saturday means endless rib eye steak with salad and fries for \$19.50. Friday evening ends the work week with Karaoke Night, a convivial and fun evening when islanders kick back and let loose their inner rock star.

Barney's is located just next to the huge supermarket on the Palm Beach/Noord road, not far from the gas station. They are open from 5:00 to 11:00 PM and closed on Mondays. Check out their full menu at <http://www.barneysaruba.com> or call 586-5420 for reservations and directions.



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Cool Casino...where those in the know go to play!



The great perks of gaming at Cool Casino in the Palm Beach has created a dedicated clientele; ask them what they like about the cozy casino, and they don't know where to start! The free slot tournaments every Sunday? Major pay-offs in their weekly Blackjack tournaments every Tuesday and Friday? Ladies' night every Wednesday with entertainment from great local bands? Or perhaps just the terrific benefits of being "One Cool Member" which earns players bonus points towards additional activities, free dinners, day passes at the Riu Resort, credit for play, or best of all: hard, cool cash! The casino opens daily at 10:00 AM and on Saturdays and Sundays, all are greeted with an early

morning "Kaffie Klatch" and triple points when using their membership cards.

Cool Casino is a great place to learn to understand



such table games as Craps and Roulette, as they offer free instructions and minimums for beginners with which anyone can have fun and feel very comfortable. High-stakes tables and a major weekly

blackjack tournament will keep veteran high-rollers happy, as well as periodic special events that attract an international crowd; stop by and check their schedule.

Add to all this free drinks while testing the slots or trying your hand at the tables, and the opportunity to enjoy exclusive pay-per-view major sporting events at one of their dozens of plasma screens, and you can understand why loyal patrons find Cool Casino THE fun place to play. Slot machines are open from 10:00 AM until 4:00 AM daily, and gaming tables open at 5:00 PM; ask for their schedule of special events and bonuses, as there are so many choose from, but every day offers something to get the adrenaline flowing!



Eat like a local at The Queen's restaurant at Palm Beach Plaza



Varella, Luisa and the next generation of chef



Keshi Yena with plaintains, vegetables and pica

An elegant décor with a breezy terrace overlooking Palm Beach welcomes guests to Varella Innocencia's very popular restaurant showcasing authentic local cuisine:

The Queen's.

They may have moved from Oranjestad to hipper new digs in Palm Beach Plaza, but the food and prices are strictly native, which is what first won this charming eatery their loyal clientele. Varella's mom, Luisa, is still in the kitchen, conjuring up the delicious dishes that have been in her family for generations, acknowledged on the menu with items such as "Carni Stoba di Mamachi"- "Grandma's Beef Stew," and their Arawak Steak, along with local delicacies like Keshi Yena - "Full Cheese." This is a tasty, filling stew of chicken, with other ingredients that are handy that day, all incased in a thick skin of melted Gouda. It was very satisfying and particularly memorable paired with The Queen's garlic bread and very special Pica, a mix of chopped onions and the famous local hot pepper, Madame Janette. Not overly spicy, it lends that perfect bit of tang to this deliciously picturesque meal.

One of the distinctions of Aruban cuisine is incorporating unique indigenous ingredients such as in Wild Cucumber Stew and a particular light fish chowder accompanied by the local specialties pan bati (corn meal pancake) and funchi (the local version of polenta.)

Seafood main courses for Catch of the Day Aruban Style to shrimp and a mixed seafood platter with shrimp, fish, squid, scallops and mussels. Meat dishes such as BBQ Chicken and Ribs or Grilled Tenderloin, each including a choice of 2 side dishes; all quite yummy and bargain-priced to boot!

The Queen's is located on the second level of Palm Beach Plaza, tucked into a cozy corner at the front of the mall. If you have a mind to try the real deal in Aruban food, without a doubt, this is the way to truly eat like a local. They are open from 11:00 AM to 11:00 PM, daily, offering indoor and outdoor dining. Aside from an extensive menu they also have daily specials made from whatever is in season and Mama Luisa is in the mood to prepare, so don't forget to ask about what isn't on the menu!

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Mainstreet Downtown Aruba

SPORTS

Football: France stunned by Japan in Spain rehearsal

PARIS (AFP) - France will go into next week's crucial World Cup qualifier against Spain on the back of a defeat after substitute Yasuyuki Konno's 88th-minute goal gave Japan a 1-0 win in Friday's friendly at Stade de France.

The hosts had largely controlled the game but they were caught cold with two minutes to play when Konno volleyed home Yuto Nagatomo's cross following a rapid counter-attack.

It was Japan's first win over France in six attempts and a first defeat for Didier Deschamps in his fourth game since taking over from Laurent Blanc at the France helm.

The former Marseille coach will hope the damage is not too profound ahead of Tuesday's pivotal Group I game with Spain in Madrid, while Japan will head into their friendly against Brazil in Poland with a spring in their step.

Football: Russia, Italy win, Swedes avoid Faroes scare



Russia's national football team player Aleksandr Kerzhakov (2nd L) scores

PARIS (AFP) - Russia maintained their perfect start to 2014 World Cup qualifying while Sweden had to dig deep to prevent a major upset in the Faroe Islands in early action across Europe on Friday.

Elsewhere, former champions Italy came away from their trip to Yerevan with a 3-1 win over a spirited Armenia, and the Czech Republic saw off minnows Malta by the same scoreline.

Fabio Capello's Russia earned their first ever win over Portugal in the post-Soviet era courtesy of Alexander Kerzhakov's first half goal in Moscow to put them on nine points after their opening three qualifiers.

The 2018 World Cup hosts, who agonisingly missed out on the 2010 finals on away goals to Slovenia in the play-offs, took sole possession at the top of Group F, with Cristiano Ronaldo's Portugal now placed second, three points behind.

Zenit Saint Petersburg's free-scoring striker Kerzhakov ensured the win when he beat Portuguese goalkeeper Rui Patricio from the edge of the box in the sixth minute.

Portugal manager Paolo Bento said he was satisfied with his team's performance but not the result.

Cesare Prandelli's Italy were living dangerously for a time in Yerevan when Henrikh Mkhitaryan cancelled out Andrea Pirlo's 11th-minute penalty but second half goals from Daniele de Rossi and Pablo Osvaldo earned Italy the win to give them a seven-point haul from a possible nine in Group B.

In Torshavn, the Faroe Islands went into a shock lead over Sweden, a massive 131 rungs above their humble hosts in FIFA's world rankings.

Rogvi Baldvinsson, who had a fleeting two-week spell with Bristol Rovers this year before cutting short his stay with the English League two outfit citing personal reasons, set up the possibility of a major shock in the 57th minute.

But Sweden's nerves held, with Fulham winger Alex Kaniklic levelling eight minutes later and Paris Saint Germain's Zlatan Ibrahimovic saving Sweden's blushes to bag the nervy 2-1 win with quarter of an hour to go.



MOTEGI : Moto3-class FTR Honda rider Niccolò Antonelli of Italy falls on the track at the V-turn during the second free practice of the MotoGP Japanese Grand Prix at the Twin Ring Motegi circuit in Motegi on October 12, 2012.

AFP PHOTO

Football: Ronaldo should win Ballon d'Or - Mourinho

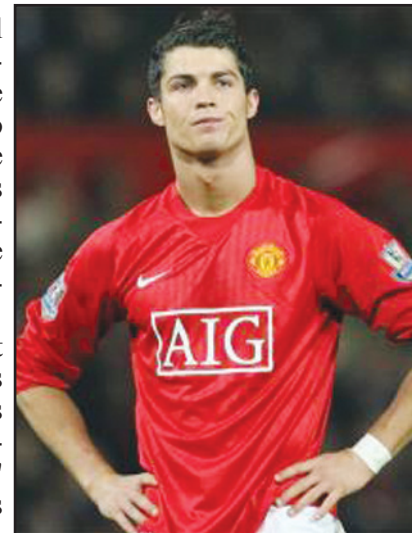
LISBON (AFP) - Real Madrid coach Jose Mourinho has said it would be a travesty if Cristiano Ronaldo did not win the 2012 FIFA Ballon d'Or, as competition heats up between the Portuguese striker and Barcelona's Lionel Messi.

"If Cristiano doesn't win the Ballon d'Or this year, it's only because he's not nice, because he doesn't sell his image well," Mourinho was quoted as saying by Friday's Portuguese sports daily A Bola.

Unlike Messi, Mourinho added, Ronaldo had won a major title with Real -- the Spanish league.

But the Barca and Argentina forward has nevertheless won the last three Ballon d'Or, the prestigious award for the world's outstanding footballer.

"Messi has grown up in the team in which he plays, with the players he plays



alongside. Not Cristiano, who was in England and whom we put into a team that was a losing one," the Portuguese coach said.

Ronaldo is "a winger who scores as many goals as a No 9, a player who is not protected from anything or anybody".

"It's much tougher being Cristiano than Messi," insisted Mourinho.

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Lance Armstrong could yet be prosecuted: experts

WASHINGTON (AFP) - It may require years of legal argument and enormous financial cost, but Lance Armstrong could yet be forced into court on charges that he lied when he denied ever using performance-enhancing drugs.

The 41-year old former cyclist, whose seven Tour de France wins and cancer charity made him a global icon, is accused of being at the heart of sport's "most sophisticated, professionalized and successful doping program."

Armstrong has always maintained that he did not use banned substances during his career, but in August he chose not to contest charges put forward by the US Anti-doping Agency (USADA) that he was a serial drugs cheat.

Although fingers were pointed at Armstrong for

years, cycling's governing body, the International Cycling Union (UCI), has never sanctioned him and it has since been suggested that some officials looked the other way.

But it is the sheer and unprecedented volume and detail of allegations that the USADA published this week that could lead US prosecutors and companies to consider fresh criminal and civil actions, experts said Friday.

One possibility is that justice officials in California will re-open a file they closed earlier this year concerning alleged drug use and misuse of funds when Armstrong was with the government-funded US Postal Service team.

Peter Keane, a law professor at Golden Gate University in San Francisco, said the new evidence -- including testimony from Armstrong's team mates that they saw Armstrong inject himself with banned drugs -- may force the u-turn.

Another case that could return to haunt the fallen icon is an arbitration hearing in Dallas in 2005 where he said on oath that he had never taken banned substances, a statement which raises the specter of possible perjury charges.

While the evidence against Armstrong appears damning, there are substantial hurdles to any legal action, civil or criminal, being taken.

A major factor is that the California case is seen as highly political: any decision to prosecute would be taken by the US Attorney General in Washington.

The fact that Armstrong is a cancer survivor whose later feats confounded the expectation that he would die in his twenties, is also relevant, said Jordan Kobritz, chair of the Sports Management Department at SUNY Cortland.

"There's no political upside

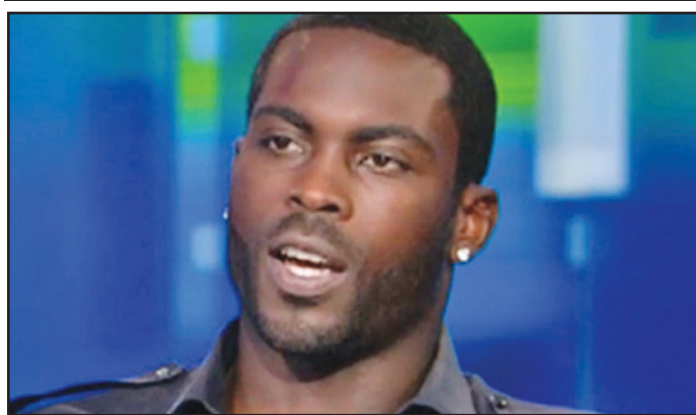
for President Barack Obama, or for possible president Mitt Romney, of re-opening that investigation," said Kobritz, who also highlighted the millions of taxpayer dollars it would cost.

There are also potential problems with pursuing an appeal over the Dallas arbitration ruling, given that parties to such civil hearings agree at the outset to accept the outcome as final, unless there is fraud in the process.

Meeting the latter requirement would be tough, but the contradictory nature of the USADA report, could lead to a review or fresh lawsuit from SCA, said Michael Straubel, professor of law at Valparaiso University, in Indiana.

They will be examining the evidence closely and seeing how they can re-open the proceedings," said Straubel, who has represented athletes accused of doping offenses and is a widely-published author on the subject.

Ex-dogfight ring financier Vick



PHILADELPHIA (AFP) - Philadelphia Eagles star Michael Vick, who served 18 months in federal prison for his role in a dogfight gambling ring, admitted in a statement on Friday that he now owns a pet dog. Vick was a superstar run and pass threat for the Atlanta Falcons in 2007 when he was suspended indefinitely by the National Football League for his role in financing a dogfight scheme run by his friends. Evidence revealed in the case detailed Vick killing dogs in such brutal ways as beating, drowning and electrocution. That made him, the Falcons and the NFL a target for protests from animal lovers. Vick had repeatedly said that he wanted to own a dog one day but can understand while some will feel that is inappropriate given his history. Vick said his ownership of a dog will show just how changed he has become since his prison stay.

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Meulens will manage in WBC



CINCINNATI -- Hitting coach Hensley Meulens has accepted an offer to manage the Netherlands in next spring's World Baseball Classic, putting him in charge of several major-leaguers from his native Curacao, Aruba and others with Dutch heritage.

Meulens declined to comment on the honor because it has not been formalized by Major League Baseball, which could happen within a week.

But Meulens acknowl-

edged he discussed it with Giants officials, who had to approve Meulens' absence as hitting coach for much of spring training. The Giants often have several instructors in camp who can work with hitters.

Former Braves and Dodgers outfielder Andruw Jones highlights the list of players the Dutch baseball federation submitted to the WBC. Like most of the major-leaguers, Jones comes from the southern Caribbean islands of Aruba and Curacao, which formerly comprised part of the Netherlands Antilles, which was disbanded in 2010. They remain part of the Netherlands kingdom.

Others who could play for Meulens include Dodgers reliever Kenley Jansen, Nationals outfielder Roger Bernadina, Braves starter Jair Jurrjens, top Rangers infield prospect Jurickson Profar and Mets outfielder Kirk Nieuwenhuis, who was born in California but has Dutch ancestry.

Aruba Volleyball team qualifies at World Championship Qualification



Eleven male athletes just recently returned from the Cayman Islands where they played at the World Championship Qualification. A total of 15 persons went on this trip for this competition, namely, 11 athletes, 1 team manager, 2 coaches and 1 local referee who is licensed to referee international games. Alex McCloud is Aruba's licensed international referee who has refereed various international games, such as the game in Suriname. The Aruba team was in the pool with Surinam, Barbados and Cayman Islands. The final results were splendid with the Aruba team qualifying for the next round of games. Our local team returned to Aruba in high spirits and very positive, ready to go the next round scheduled for early next year. Aruba's Lotto sponsored the tickets and insurance for the 15 member team. They also picked up the tab on the medical examination. The Lotto organization said that they are very proud of the accomplishment of the team and is certain that they will train hard for the upcoming championship. The primary goal of Aruba's Lotto is to organize lotteries, change lives of their players and at the same time to invest in local sports.

No replacements for Armstrong Tour wins - director

PARIS (AFP) - The winner's list of the world's most prestigious cycling race, the Tour de France, is likely to have a seven-year gap, after organisers said Friday they were against re-attributing disgraced rider Lance Armstrong's wins. The development came as the sport's world governing body said it was studying the extensive dossier on the Texan as a "priority", amid calls for its honorary president to quit and the possibility of legal action against three Spaniards implicated. Replacing Armstrong as Tour winner has been a source of debate since August, given that the majority of those who finished second or third -- and even lower down the field -- have subsequently been implicated in doping scandals. Finding a rider untouched by links to performance-enhancing drug use would have been a difficult -- if not impossible -- task. Elsewhere, the Spanish anti-doping agency said it was likely the public prosecutor would be informed over the alleged involvement of two doctors and a trainer in doping activities on Spanish soil.

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